

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges Component Budget Summary

Component: Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges

Contribution to Department's Mission

Promote hunter education, shooting opportunities, and firearm safety.

Core Services

The division provides the public with a three venues for hunter education classes, firearm safety, and shooting opportunities.

Rabbit Creek Shooting Park, Anchorage – This outdoor facility adjacent to Potter Marsh is open five-days per week except for December. This facility has been operated by the Department since 1974. The facility provides hunters, recreational shooters, and competitive league shooting enthusiasts with ranges for the following:

- Rifle
- Handgun
- 22 Rimfire
- Archery
- Shotgun (non-toxic) clay target shooting – 5-stand.

Organized events held at Rabbit Creek

- Hunter Education classes. A classroom building is available for youth and adult hunter education. Students and instructors use the adjacent range area for demonstrations and testing.
- "Sighting-In" days for hunters. During this event, participating hunters have their hunting firearms checked out for any operational problems, then proceed to have their hunting loads chronographed to determine actual velocity. Hunters then have their hunting firearm's actual velocity entered into a sophisticated ballistics computer program that provides them a printout of their firearm's trajectory at normal hunting distances.
- Youth Shooting Leagues. Supported in cooperation with the Hunter Heritage Foundation, shooting skills are taught and encouraged to youth.

Fairbanks Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range – This indoor facility located at 1501 College Road is open five-days per week, primarily during the late summer to early spring. The facility was constructed by the Department primarily using Fish & Game Funds. The department also received federal grant funds from the Department of Interior. The facility was opened in 2000. The priority use for the facility is for hunter education and training. The facility provides hunters, recreational shooters, and competitive league shooting enthusiasts with the following:

- 50-foot Live-Fire Range with 10 Shooting Lanes
- Modern Bullet-Trap system (for .22 rifles and handguns up to .45 caliber)
- Two media-equipped Classrooms with capacity for 36 students
- Electronic Range/Shooting Simulation System
- Hunter Education and Bow Hunter Education classes
- Hunter Information and Training Clinics (Muzzleloading, Bear Baiting, etc.)
- Instructor and Range Safety Officer certification
- Youth Shooting Sports and Clinics
- Marksmanship Qualification (Handgun, Bullseye Pistol, and Light Rifle)

- League Shooting (.22 Pistol and Center-fire Pistol)

Juneau Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range – This indoor facility at 5670 Montana Creek Road in Juneau, is open five-days per week, primarily during the late summer to early spring. The facility was constructed by the Department primarily using Fish and Game Funds. The department also received federal grant funds from the Department of Interior and funding support from the City and Borough of Juneau. The facility was opened in 2004. The priority use for the facility is for hunter education and training. The facility provides hunters, recreational shooters, and competitive league shooting enthusiasts with ranges for the following:

- 50-foot Live-Fire Range with 7 Shooting Lanes
- Modern Bullet-Trap system (for .22 rifles and handguns up to .45 caliber)
- Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes
- Firearms Instruction for all skill levels
- Instructor and Range Safety Officer certification
- Youth Shooting Sports and Clinics
- Marksmanship Qualification (Handgun, Bullseye Pistol, and Light Rifle)
- League Shooting (.22 Pistol and Center-fire Pistol)

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$676,500

Personnel:

Full time	2
Part time	6
Total	8

Key Component Challenges

The FY08 appropriation act, CH 28, SLA 07, contained intent language on page 15, line 30, as follows:

“It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Fish and Game develop a plan to make the shooting ranges completely self-supporting by FY2009.”

The primary purpose for the Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges is to support the division’s courses for hunter education for youth and adults. This purpose provided the basis to use federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds dedicated to Hunter Education for the original capital construction in both 1996 and 2000 for the Fairbanks and Juneau facilities, respectively. Hunting license fee funds were required to match the federal funds. The secondary purpose for construction was to provide for shooting range and firearm safety opportunities for the public.

The division’s Hunter Information and Training (HIT) program develops the hunter education curriculum and coordinates course delivery statewide. HIT was not designed or expected to be self-supporting. A fee is charged for hunter education course materials, but nothing is collected to support volunteer instructors or the division’s coordinating staff. Federal funds for hunter education and the required match from the Fish and Game Fund provide the basis for the division’s coordinating staff for HIT. These grant funds are received on a yearly basis.

The HIT program and the Shooting Ranges are separate operations within the division and budgeted in separate components (HIT is funded within the Wildlife Conservation component). They work very closely to ensure coordination

for hunter education classes. The operation of the three shooting ranges were not intended and are not expected by division management to be self-sufficient on the fees charges to the users of the shooting ranges, both indoor and outdoor. Experience around the country confirms that such venues must receive general support from the agency to operate.

If the appropriation from the Legislature is eliminated, the department's only option will be to close the hunter education venues since they will no longer be used for their original purpose. The department must return grant funds used for construction to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and to the Fish and Game Fund. The fair market value of the ranges would need to be determined by the USFWS to complete this reimbursement. Based upon the construction cost for the ranges and estimating some appreciation for the facilities, an estimated \$5.0 million dollars may be needed to complete this reimbursement.

The division's plan is to gradually increase the percentage of funding derived from users of the shooting ranges. A target percentage is 45% by the end of FY2011. Specific options to achieve this target include:

- Strategically increase hours to increase patron use
- Gradually increase fee structure
- Market the facilities within their locations to increase use
- Develop archery training opportunities to increase use

In addition to this plan, this component will not request General Funds to support its operations in FY09.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

No change in service delivery is expected for FY09. The component will no longer receive support from the General Fund, they will be replaced with Fish & Game Funds.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

The shooting facilities aim to support hunter education and firearms safety in their respective communities. Specific events hosted by each facility during FY2007 are listed.

Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (RCSP)

- RCSP hosted the following:
 - All Anchorage based hunter education classes organized through ADFG
 - Bowhunter certification courses (International Bowhunter Education Program - IBEP)
 - Muzzleloader certification clinics
 - Bear baiting clinics
 - Bear safety courses
 - Reloading clinics
 - Field courses for hunter education programs from Anchorage schools
 - Proficiency shoots (archery, muzzleloader and shotgun) for Anchorage Hillside moose hunt, Elmendorf AFB, and Ft Richardson moose hunts
 - Annual Brian Hill Memorial Shoot; Oct 2006
 - Hunter Information and Training (HIT) Steering Group annual meeting; (Feb 2007)
 - Volunteer Instructors Course Planning Meeting (Dec 2006)
 - Annual training and preparation for Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC)
- Rabbit Creek Youth Sporting Clays League. 10 weeks starting in September and 10 weeks starting in March.
- Women's Sporting Clays League. Season dates match Youth League schedule
- Jakes Day in cooperation with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) annually every June (ATV's, archery, shotgun, rifle, archery).
- Youth league new coaches training in cooperation with the National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) September 2006

- Range Safety Officer (RSO) annual training and meeting (Dec).
- Alaska 49's Black Powder Shoot; June 2007.
- Hunter Information and Training, (HIT) new instructor training (2-3 times each year) for Basic Hunter Education, Archery and Muzzleloader instructors.
- Sighting-in Days Clinic, annually on the first Sunday of August (gunsmith, chronographing, ballistics information, help getting hunters sighted in for their hunt).
- Waterfowl clinic, 3rd Saturday each August (distance exercises, pattern testing, steel shot information, shooting tips etc.).
- National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). RCSP stores agency archery training kits and targets; offers range and classroom for program expansion.
- Women in the Outdoors Clinic in cooperation with the NWTF, May 2007. Held annually and includes ATV's, fly fishing, shotgun, rifle, archery.
- RCSP works in cooperation with the following agencies and groups and serves as their home range:
 - BLM field bear training courses
 - Chugach State Park ranger training
 - UAA Police training
 - Dept. of Public Safety Qualifications
 - USGS field bear safety training certifications
 - U.S. Coast Guard training
 - Elmendorf AFB 3rd equipment Maintenance Squadron
 - Various NRA training courses and instructors
 - Boy Scouts of America activities
 - NOAA training
 - Learn to Return program
 - Alaska retrievers club
 - ADF&G enforcement and bear firearms training
 - USFWS agent training
 - Alaska USA security guard training

Fairbanks Hunter Education Shooting Facility

- Fairbanks hosted the following courses/events organized and conducted through ADF&G:
 - Basic Hunter Education (twice monthly)
 - Bow Hunter Education (twice monthly)
 - Muzzleloader Education (several times a year)
 - Firearms Safety Orientations (dozens monthly)
 - Walk-in Public Shooting Hours (24 hours per week, in season)
 - Electronic Shooting System Instructor Course (several times a year)
 - NRA First Steps Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun Courses (monthly, in season)
 - NRA Range Safety Officer Courses (several times a year)
 - Alaska Marksmanship Challenge Program Matches (several times a year)
 - Electronic Shooting System at the Annual Outdoor Show at the Carlson Center
 - STEP OUTSIDE ® and Take a Kid Hunting Clinic
 - Law Enforcement Firearms and Shooting Training Sessions
- Fairbanks hosted the following events:
 - Alaska Conservation Camp for youth (Basic and Advanced Camps)
 - NRA Firearms Instructor Courses for Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Home Firearm Safety (several times a year)
 - NRA Ladies Basic Pistol Classes (several times a year)
 - NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge State Championship (state headquarters, annual championship and supportive events throughout the year)

- NRA Sanctioned Indoor Pistol Leagues (matches held twice per week during main season)
- High School Rifle Team Practice Sessions and Matches
- USPSA Shooting Matches (monthly, during the winter months)
- International Lions Youth Exchange Camp – Firearms Safety and Shooting Program
- Trailblazer Adventure Day with the Boy Scouts of America – Firearms Safety and Shooting Program
- Alaska International Senior Games – Rifle and Pistol Shoots
- Fairbanks worked in cooperation with the following agencies and organizations:
 - Federal Court Security Officers
 - UAF Police Department
 - Fairbanks Police Department
 - Alaska State Troopers
 - Alaska Peace Officers Association
 - State of Alaska, Department of Corrections
 - Fairbanks North Star Borough
 - Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Schools
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - International Lions Club
 - Optimists Club of Fairbanks
 - Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee
 - Alaska Outdoor Council
 - Boy Scouts of America
 - 4-H / Cooperative Extension Service
 - Alaska International Senior Games
 - National Shooting Sports Foundation
 - National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Civilian Marksmanship Program
 - Hunter Heritage Foundation of Alaska
 - University of Alaska Fairbanks – Athletics Department/Rifle Team
 - National Rifle Association of America
 - Alaska Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor's Association
 - Interior Alaska Gun Dog Association
 - United States Practical Shooting Association
 - United States Army, Fort Wainwright Alaska
 - United States Army, Fort Richardson Alaska
 - United States Air Force, Eielson Air Force Base

Juneau Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Facility

- Juneau hosted these courses organized through ADFG:
 - Basic Hunter Education
 - Bowhunter Education
 - Hunter Education Instructor training
 - Waterfowl Clinics
 - Steelshot Clinics
- Boy Scouts
- NRA Women's Pistol Course
- NRA 1st Step
- USFS Rifle and Bear Spray
- Governor's Security Detail Qualifications
- Legislative Security Detail Qualifications
- 4-H Outdoor Skills Club
- 4-H Junior Marksmanship Club
- Juneau Police Department Training and Qualifications

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Alaska Statutes and Regulations

AS 16.05 - Fish & Game Code
AS 16.55 - Shooting and Firearm Safety
5 AAC - Fish & Game

Contact Information
<p>Contact: Doug Larsen, Director Phone: (907) 465-4190 Fax: (907) 465-6142 E-mail: doug.larsen@alaska.gov</p>

Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	348.1	394.5	393.1
72000 Travel	3.7	2.0	2.0
73000 Services	178.7	164.1	196.4
74000 Commodities	67.5	95.0	85.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	598.0	655.6	676.5
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	126.1	125.6	0.0
1024 Fish and Game Fund	471.9	530.0	676.5
Funding Totals	598.0	655.6	676.5

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<u>Unrestricted Revenues</u>				
Unrestricted Fish & Game Fund-Dedicated	68535	471.9	530.0	676.5
Unrestricted Total		471.9	530.0	676.5
<u>Restricted Revenues</u>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Estimated Revenues		471.9	530.0	676.5

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	125.6	0.0	530.0	655.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer Fish & Game Funds from the Wildlife Conservation component	0.0	0.0	125.6	125.6
-Transfer General Funds to the Wildlife Conservation component	-125.6	0.0	0.0	-125.6
-Correct Unrealizable Fund Sources for Salary Adjustments: GGU	-5.3	0.0	5.3	0.0
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: General Government Unit	5.3	0.0	15.6	20.9
FY2009 Governor	0.0	0.0	676.5	676.5

Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2009</u> <u>Governor</u>	
Full-time	2	2	Annual Salaries 228,022
Part-time	7	6	COLA 17,221
Nonpermanent	2	1	Premium Pay 3,827
			Annual Benefits 145,974
			Less 0.49% Vacancy Factor (1,944)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay 0
Totals	11	9	Total Personal Services 393,100

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
College Intern I	1	0	0	0	1
F&W Technician II	1	2	0	0	3
F&W Technician III	2	0	0	0	2
F&W Technician IV	0	0	1	0	1
F&W Technician V	1	0	0	0	1
Project Asst	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	5	3	1	0	9